

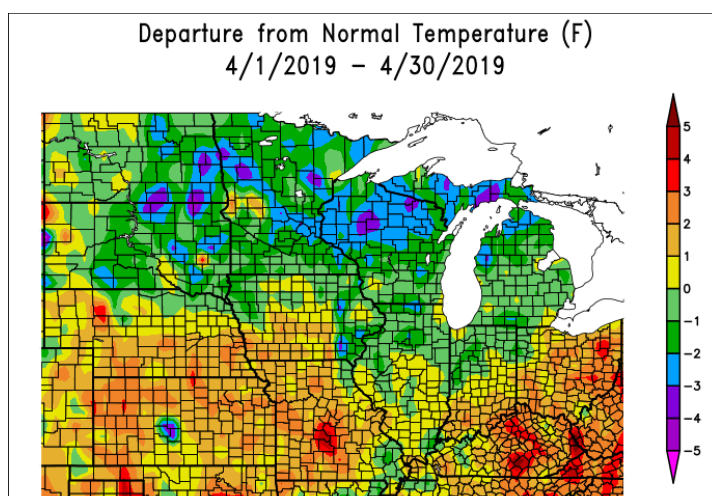
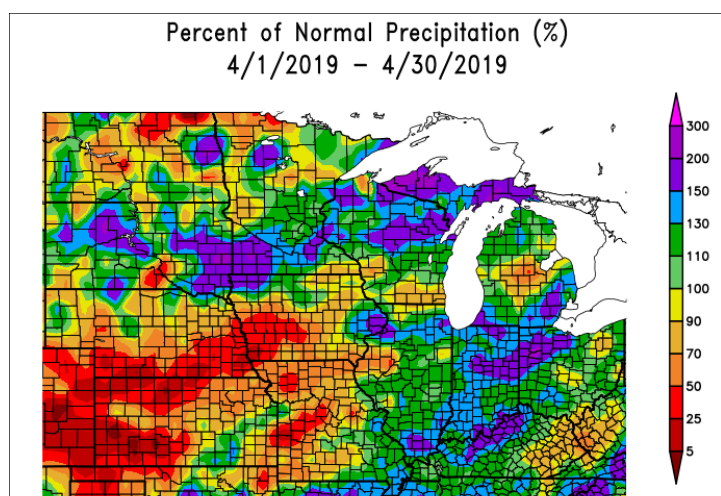


Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Current Conditions



An interesting contrast of conditions has occurred over April in the Midwest and Northern Plains. Temperatures have been a few degrees colder than average from the Dakotas east to Michigan. Areas south and east have been a little warmer. While conditions have generally been perceived wet (and have been in much of the region) areas from Iowa into the central Plains have been quite dry (less than 50% and even 25% of average in places). Even in the dry places longer-term wetness has left soils still fairly wet. Some additional snow has occurred in late April, but has not had significant impact to agriculture beyond the cool and wet conditions. Soil temperatures have been highly variable, but generally warm enough for corn planting in the southern half of the Corn Belt, while still mainly in the 40s in the north half.



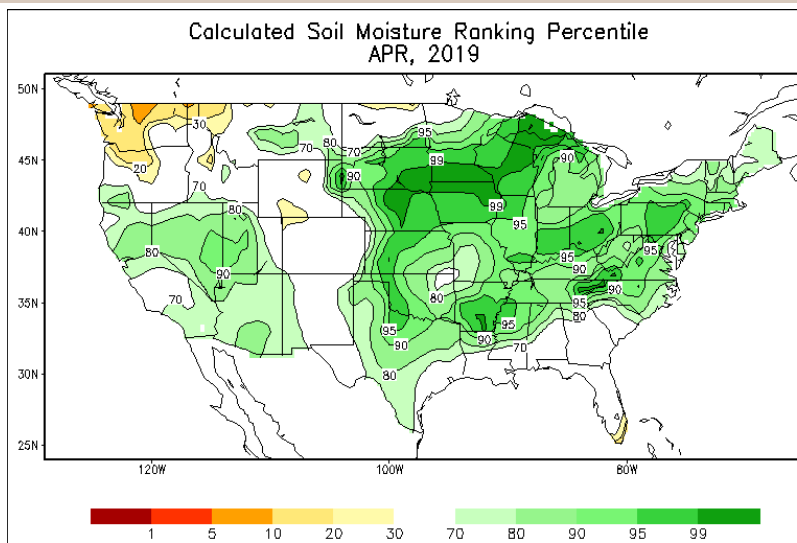
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 5/2/2019

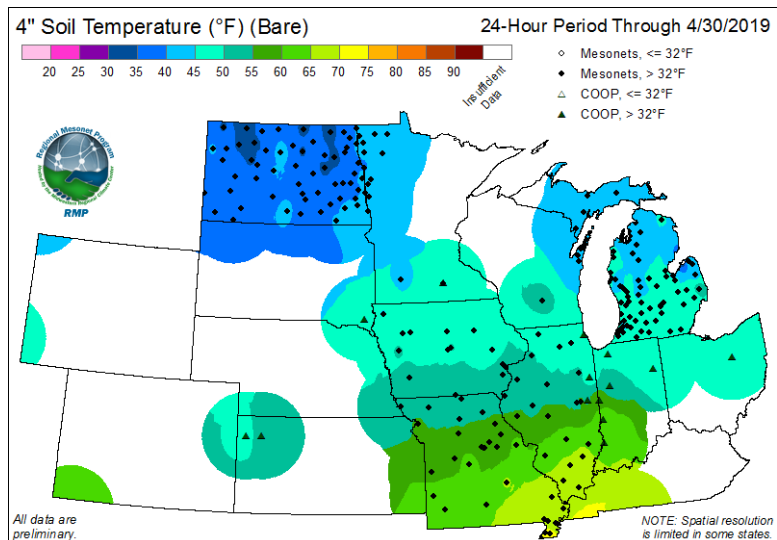


Impacts

Delayed planting and field work are the main issues currently and are starting to reach a point of serious concern given current conditions and outlooks. Wet soils and some colder temperatures have kept soils too wet and too cold for much planting. Nearly all spring crops are delayed in some form across the region (oats -10%, spring wheat -20% soybeans -3%). Corn is also 12% behind with the worst in Minnesota and Illinois eastward. Additional field work left from the wet fall has also slowed progress. (Cont.)

[Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile provided by Climate Prediction Center](#)





(Impacts Cont.) Application of manure has been delayed leaving some livestock operations with very full pits. Serious alfalfa heaving and winter damage has been reported from Ohio to Iowa.

Ohio reports have been serious enough to lead to concerns about shortness of forage. The flooded Mississippi has been closed to barge traffic stopping fertilizer deliveries and outgoing grain shipments.

[Regional Mesonet Program, hosted by Midwest Regional Climate Center.](#)

Crop Progress

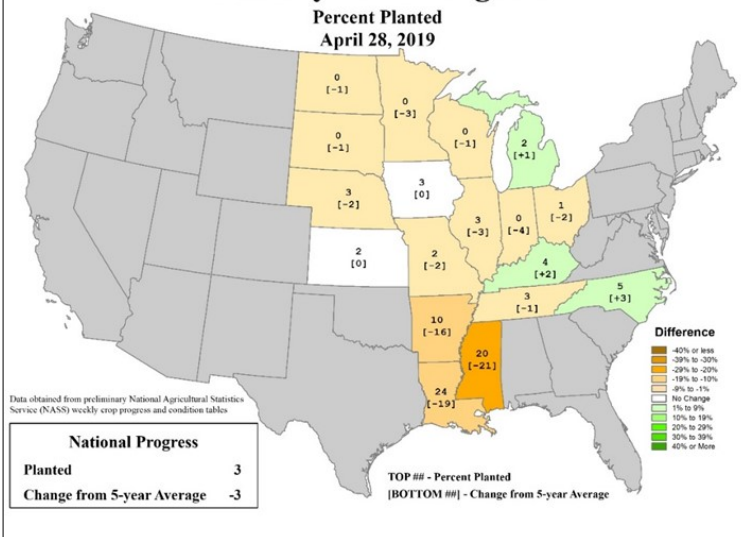


Winter wheat conditions are delayed (heading - 10% behind 5 year average) and vary in condition from poorer in the wet east, and good in the plains.

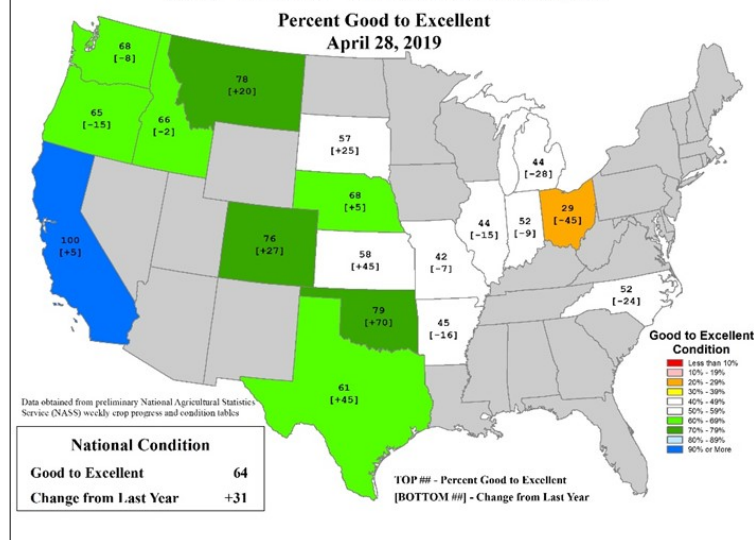
Freezing conditions have occurred over several areas in the last two weeks. Fortunately with most perennial crops and tree fruits behind on phenology, the impact seems to have been limited. Some tree fruits (mainly peach) in Michigan and Indiana have noted loss of buds this year due to winter extreme cold.

U.S. Soybeans and Corn Progress and Winter Wheat Maps Supplied by Brad Rippey (USDA – World Agricultural Outlook Board)

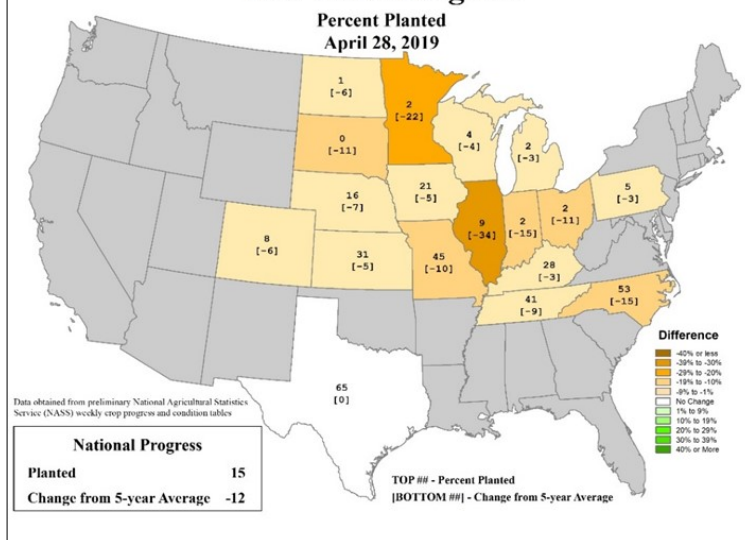
U.S. Soybeans Progress



U.S. Winter Wheat Conditions

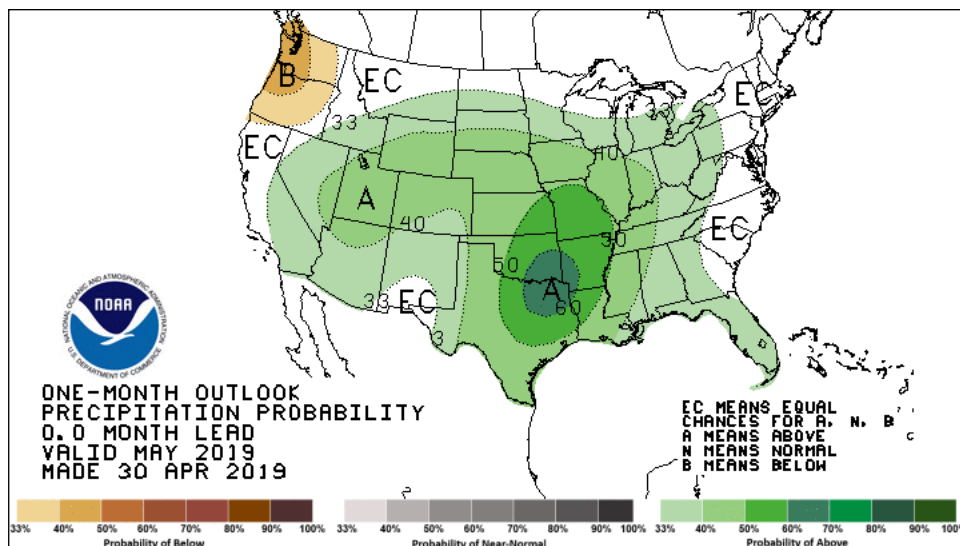


U.S. Corn Progress



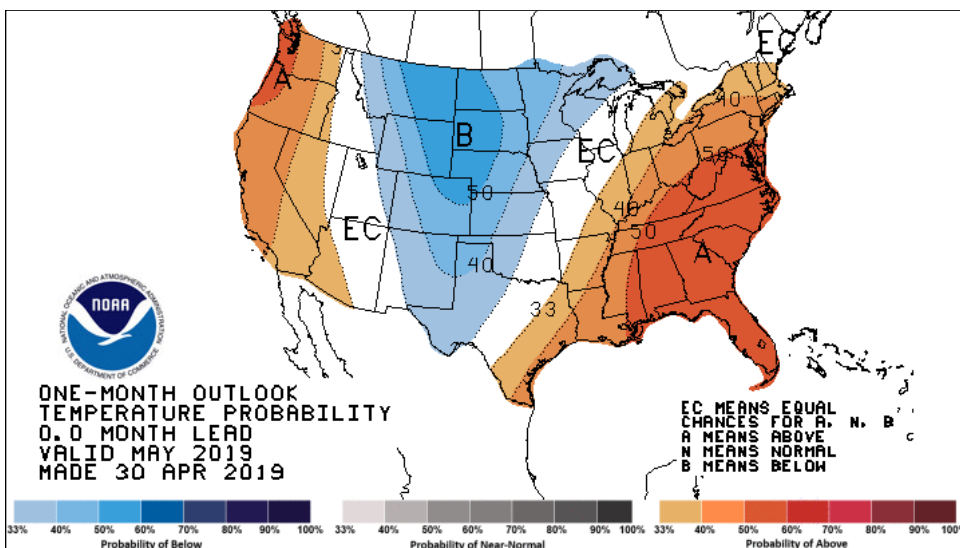


Outlook



Given the current planting delays the outlooks provide little hope for quick movement on planting. As we reach the average mid-point of corn planting there looks to be only a few days into mid-May for additional progress. The rest of May and summer as a whole present some level for concern.

The initial concerns are the near-term and overall outlooks for May which are likely wetter over nearly the whole region. Highest likelihood for precipitation is from Missouri and Kansas southward. But even in other areas the additional chances will continue to slow planting. Some extension staff have noted the issue as not excessively wet soils, but rainfall every few days. While the far eastern Corn Belt has a better chance of above-average temperatures for the month, the plains have an increased chance of below-average temperatures, which will keep soils cooler and wetter.



[Climate Prediction Center](https://www.climatepredictioncenter.org/)

Partners and Contributors



[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](https://www.usda.gov/)
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](https://www.noaa.gov/)
[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)
[National Weather Service \(NWS\)](https://www.weather.gov/)
[National Center for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/)
[National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](https://www.ndmc.gov/)
[National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](https://www.nidis.gov/)
[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](https://www.mrcc.org/)
[Midwest State Climatologists](https://www.midwestclimatehubs.org/)
[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](https://www.hprcc.org/)



For More Information

Charlene Felkley, Coordinator
 USDA Midwest Climate Hub
 1015 N University Blvd., Ames, IA 50011
 515-294-0136
charlene.felkley@ars.usda.gov



For more information, please visit:
<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>